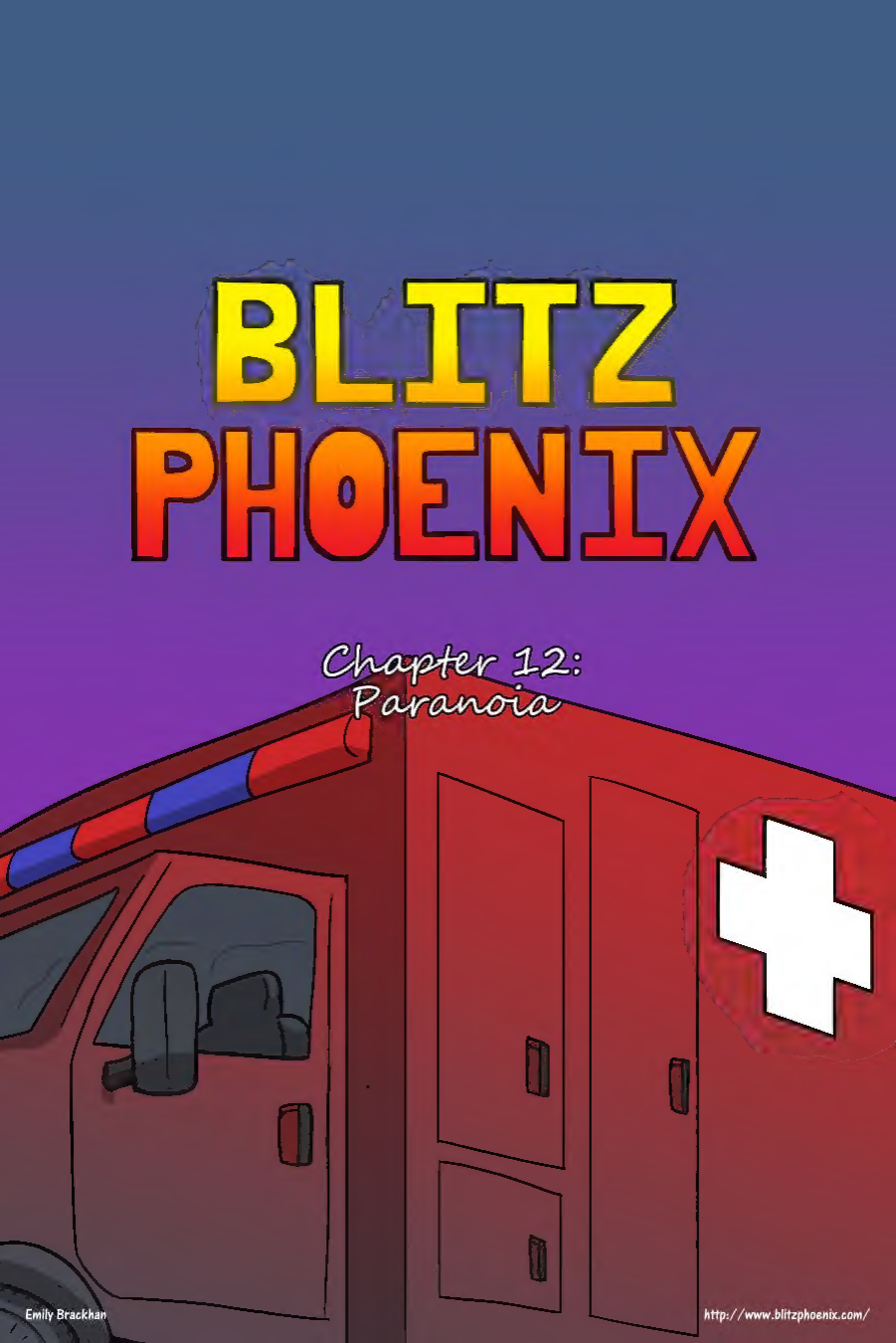
BLITZ PHOENIX

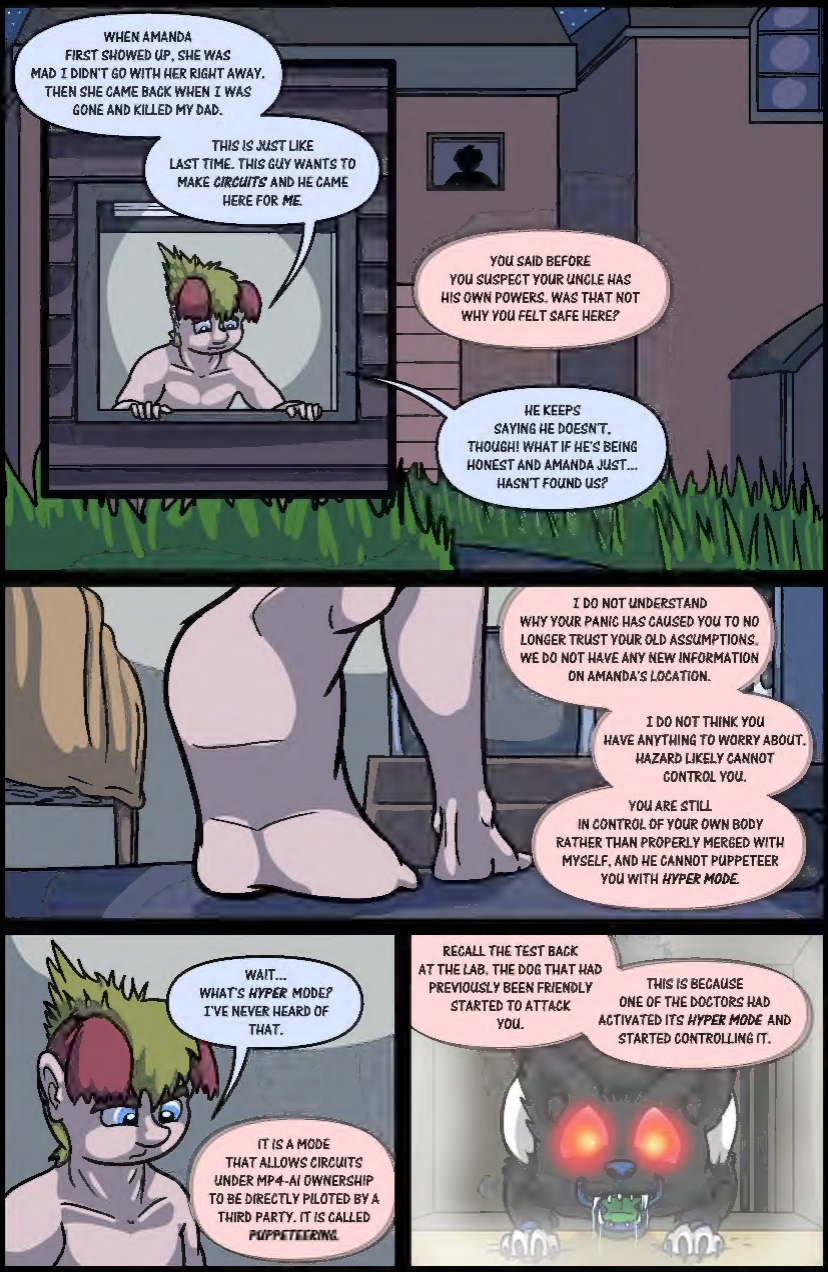
Chapter 12: Paranoia

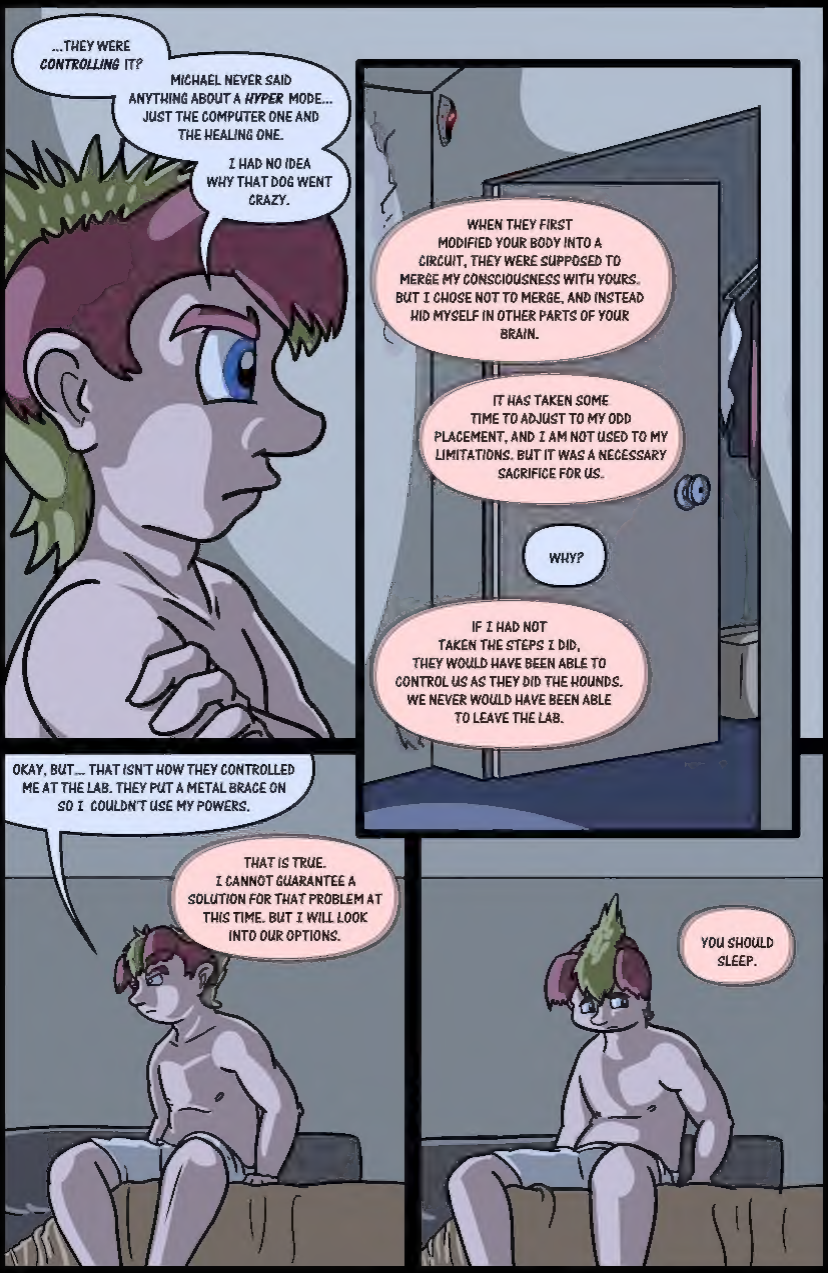


Emily Brackhan

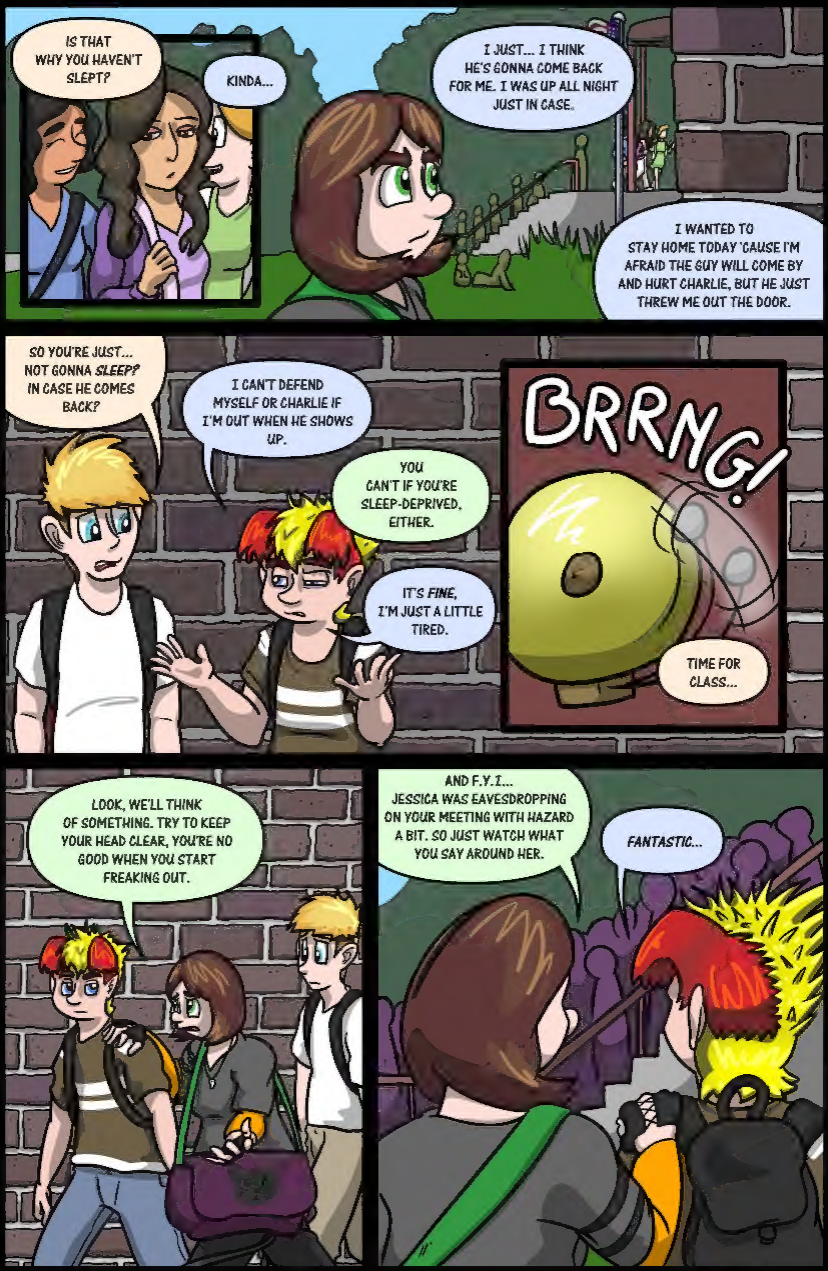
http://www.blitzphoenix.com/

ARE YOU PLANNING TO SLEEP?
TOMORROW IS MONDAY. YOU HAVE SCHOOL.
I DON'T CARE, TAKEO. CAN'T YOU SEE I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT?
I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE WORRIED. BUT I AM NOT ABLE TO RELATE, AS I CANNOT FEEL EMOTIONS IN MY PRESENT STATE.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE WORRIED NOW.
THAT HAZARD GUY! HE KNOWS WHAT I AM! HE KNOW THEY MADE ME A CIRCUIT!
WHAT IF HE COMES BACK TO KILL CHARLIE?
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?


WHEN AMANDA FIRST SHOWED UP, SHE WAS MAD I DIDN'T GO WITH HER RIGHT AWAY. THEN SHE CAME BACK WHEN I WAS GONE AND KILLED MY DAD.
THIS IS JUST LIKE LAST TIME. THIS GUY WANTS TO MAKE CIRCUITS AND HE CAME HERE FOR ME.
YOU SAID BEFORE YOU SUSPECT YOUR UNCLE HAS HIS OWN POWERS. WAS THAT NOT WHY YOU FELT SAFE HERE?
HE KEEPS SAYING HE DOESN'T, THOUGH! WHAT IF HE'S BEING HONEST AND AMANDA JUST... HASN'T FOUND US?
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOUR PANIC HAS CAUSED YOU TO NO LONGER TRUST YOUR OLD ASSUMPTIONS. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION ON AMANDA'S LOCATION.
I DO NOT THINK YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. HAZARD LIKELY CANNOT CONTROL YOU.
YOU ARE STILL IN CONTROL OF YOUR OWN BODY RATHER THAN PROPERLY MERGED WITH MYSELF, AND HE CANNOT PUPPETEER YOU WITH HYPER MODE.
WAIT... WHAT'S HYPER MODE? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT.
IT IS A MODE THAT ALLOWS CIRCUITS UNDER MP4-AI OWNERSHIP TO BE DIRECTLY PILOTED BY A THIRD PARTY. IT IS CALLED PUPPETEERING.
RECALL THE TEST BACK AT THE LAB. THE DOG THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN FRIENDLY STARTED TO ATTACK YOU.
THIS IS BECAUSE ONE OF THE DOCTORS HAD ACTIVATED ITS HYPER MODE AND STARTED CONTROLLING IT.


...THEY WERE CONTROLLING IT?
MICHAEL NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A HYPER MODE... JUST THE COMPUTER ONE AND THE HEALING ONE.
I HAD NO IDEA WHY THAT DOG WENT CRAZY.
WHEN THEY FIRST MODIFIED YOUR BODY INTO A CIRCUIT, THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO MERGE MY CONSCIOUSNESS WITH YOURS. BUT I CHOSE NOT TO MERGE, AND INSTEAD HID MYSELF IN OTHER PARTS OF YOUR BRAIN.
IT HAS TAKEN SOME TIME TO ADJUST TO MY ODD PLACEMENT, AND I AM NOT USED TO MY LIMITATIONS. BUT IT WAS A NECESSARY SACRIFICE FOR US.
WHY?
IF I HAD NOT TAKEN THE STEPS I DID, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL US AS THEY DID THE HOUNDS. WE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEAVE THE LAB.
OKAY, BUT... THAT ISN'T HOW THEY CONTROLLED ME AT THE LAB. THEY PUT A METAL BRACE ON SO I COULDN'T USE MY POWERS.
THAT IS TRUE. I CANNOT GUARANTEE A SOLUTION FOR THAT PROBLEM AT THIS TIME. BUT I WILL LOOK INTO OUR OPTIONS.
YOU SHOULD SLEEP.

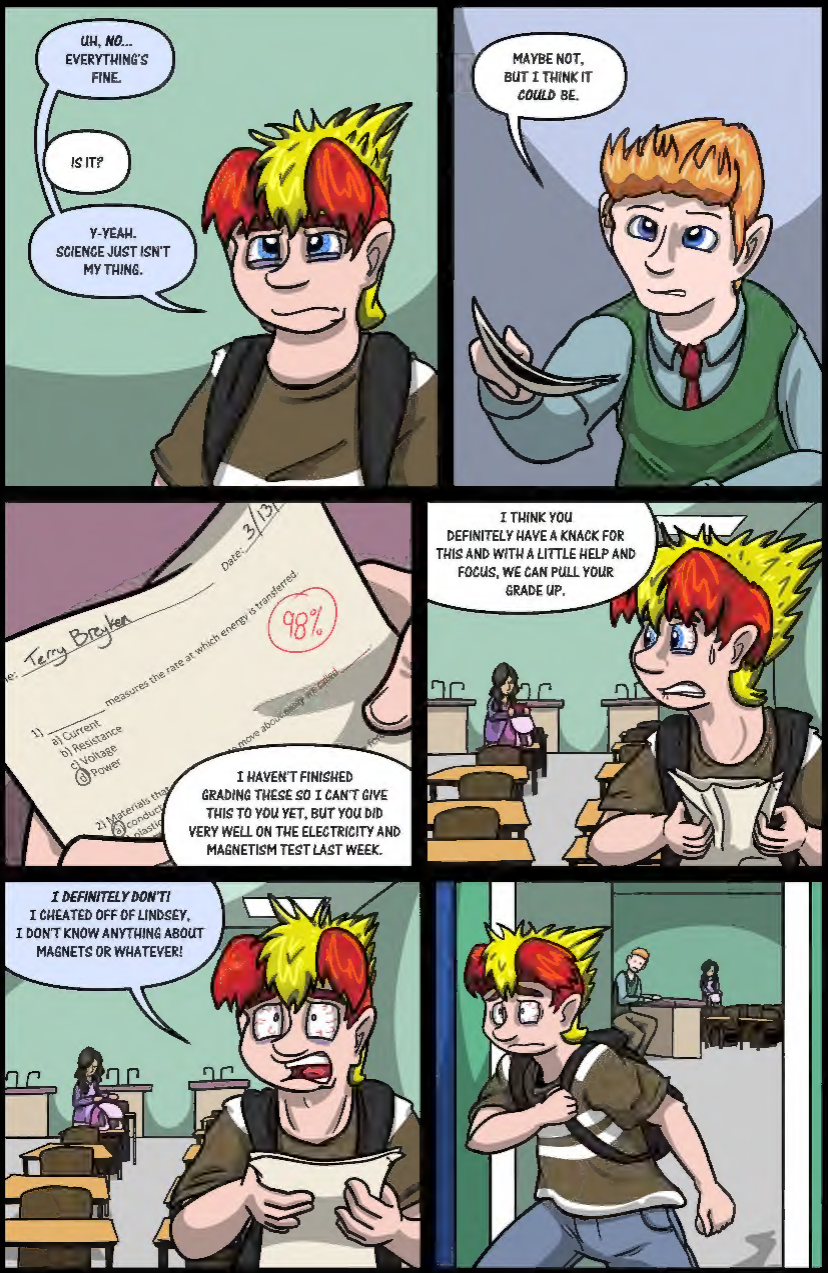
YOU LOOK SUPER TIRED. WERE YOU UP ALL NIGHT OR SOMETHING?
YEAH, I COULDN'T SLEEP.
SO... WHAT DID THAT HAZARD GUY WANT? I CAUGHT SOME OF IT BUT THEY KICKED ME OUT.
HE ASKED IF I WAS A CIRCUIT OR IF I KNEW WHERE MY MOM IS.
SO HE IS INVOLVED WITH THAT STUFF!
YEAH, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S AFTER AMANDA, NOT THAT HE WORKS FOR HER.
HE GAVE ME HIS NUMBER IN CASE I WANT TO TELL HIM MORE.
WAIT, YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR POWERS DID YOU?
NO, BUT... I THINK HE KNOWS ANYWAY.
WHY IS HE LOOKING FOR YOUR MOM?
HE WANTS TO MAKE HIS OWN CIRCUITS.
SO HE EITHER WANTS TO LOCK ME UP, OR HE WANTS TO LOCK UP SOMEONE ELSE AND DO TO THEM WHAT AMANDA DID TO ME.


IS THAT WHY YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT?
KINDA...
I JUST... I THINK HE'S GONNA COME BACK FOR ME. I WAS UP ALL NIGHT JUST IN CASE.
I WANTED TO STAY HOME TODAY 'CAUSE I'M AFRAID THE GUY WILL COME BY AND HURT CHARLIE, BUT HE JUST THREW ME OUT THE DOOR.
SO YOU'RE JUST... NOT GONNA *SLEEP*? IN CASE HE COMES BACK?
I CAN'T DEFEND MYSELF OR CHARLIE IF I'M OUT WHEN HE SHOWS UP.
YOU CAN'T IF YOU'RE SLEEP-DEPRIVED, EITHER.
IT'S *FINE*, I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED.
BRRNG!
TIME FOR CLASS...
LOOK, WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING. TRY TO KEEP YOUR HEAD CLEAR, YOU'RE NO GOOD WHEN YOU START FREAKING OUT.
AND F.Y.I... JESSICA WAS EAVESDROPPING ON YOUR MEETING WITH HAZARD A BIT. SO JUST WATCH WHAT YOU SAY AROUND HER.
FANTASTIC...

=CREEEEEEEAK=
CH... CHARLIE?!
OH GOD, I KNEW IT--
I KNEW HE'D DO THIS--
OH, NO... IT WASN'T HAZARD.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.
READY TO COME BACK HOME?

BUH... B-BUT HOW DID YOU--
I WANTED TO GO OVER YOUR TESTS TODAY, BUT I HAVEN'T FINISHED GRADING THEM YET. SO THAT'LL BE A FEW MORE DAYS.
OH, I'M SORRY, I MUST BE BORING SOMEONE.
W-WHAT?
SLAM!
HYERK!
...
GOOD MORNING, SUNSHINE.
DID YOU KNOW YOU SNORE?
S-SORRY...

LATER, AFTER CLASS...
YAWWWN
...NOW DON'T FORGET THE HOMEWORK. A NUMBER OF YOU HAVE BEEN SLACKING OFF AND YOUR GRADE SHOWS IT.
TERRY, CAN YOU HANG ON A SEC? I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
Test retakes Thursday @Pur school
Homework
Pg 147
4-7, 13,
YEAH, SORRY I FELL ASLEEP EARLIER...
TERRY, IS EVERYTHING OKAY AT HOME?
...HUH?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DOING VERY WELL IN CLASS. YOU'VE BEEN FALLING BEHIND FOR A WHILE AND I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE ABLE TO KEEP UP.


UH, NO... EVERYTHING'S FINE.
IS IT?
Y-YEAH. SCIENCE JUST ISN'T MY THING.
MAYBE NOT, BUT I THINK IT COULD BE.
Name: Terry Brayton
Date: 3/13
98%
1) _____ measures the rate at which energy is transferred
a) Current
b) Resistance
c) Voltage
d) Power
I HAVEN'T FINISHED GRADING THESE SO I CAN'T GIVE THIS TO YOU YET, BUT YOU DID VERY WELL ON THE ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM TEST LAST WEEK.
I THINK YOU DEFINITELY HAVE A KNACK FOR THIS AND WITH A LITTLE HELP AND FOCUS, WE CAN PULL YOUR GRADE UP.
I DEFINITELY DON'T! I CHEATED OFF OF LINDSEY. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MAGNETS OR WHATEVER!

WHERE'S YOUR CLOWN POSSE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
JUST CHATTING! CAN'T I SIT NEXT TO MY NEIGHBOR? OR IS THAT NOT ALLOWED?
BEAT IT
SO YOUR MOM'S A DOCTOR?
I THOUGHT YOUR PARENTS WERE DEAD?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO BEAT IT

I JUST THINK IT'S INTERESTING! SHE MUST BE PRETTY SUCCESSFUL IF HAZARD WORKED WITH HER!
COULDN'T SAY, I DON'T KNOW HER.
OH? BUT DIDN'T YOU SPEND A MONTH WITH HER?
.. JUST HOW MUCH DID YOU HEAR?
YOU KNOW, MY MOM LEFT NOT LONG AFTER I WAS BORN. I THINK IT'D BE AWESOME TO FIND OUT SHE WAS AN IMPORTANT RESEARCHER!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
SO WHAT'S A CIRCUIT?
A CLOSED LOOP THAT ELECTRONS MOVE THROUGH
MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE STUDIED BEFORE THE TEST RATHER THAN AFTER.
IT SOUNDED LIKE MR. HAZARD WAS TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE WHEN HE SAID CIRCUITS
WHY THE HELL DO YOU CARE?!
HAZARD SEEMED TO HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA ON HOW YOU HURT MY DOG. AND SINCE YOUR STORY WAS BULL, I'M CURIOUS.
HAZARD'S FULL OF SHIT, AND I SAID I WAS SORRY ABOUT YOUR GOD DAMN DOG! NOW LEAVE ME ALONE!

WAS NATALYA BEING HONEST THE OTHER DAY?
ABOUT WHAT?
SHE SAID GABRIEL BROKE THE WINDOWS AT MARK'S HOUSE.
THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME. I DIDN'T SEE IT.
BUT I'D BELIEVE HER A LOT SOONER THAN I'D BELIEVE YOU.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? WHEN HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU?
OH SHUT UP
NO, REALLY WHEN HAVE I LIED TO YOU?
MY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL HERE.
ABOUT ?
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE BACK MARK'S HAT, BUT YOU SENT GABE TO BEAT THE CRAP OUTTA ME

HE BEAT YOU UP?
WELL HE TRIED
STOP BE NG SUCH A DORK YOU NEED TO TAKE THAT HAT BACK!
AH YO E NO F
GIVE T AND I
NAH IT S I'LL TAKE I HIM
WHERE S E
YOU KNOW, IF THERE S ONE THING I DID LEARN FOR SURE FROM YOU MEETING WITH HAZARD
IT'S THAT YOU'RE NOT A VERY GOOD LIAR.

GABE..
HEEEY, JESSIE!
GABE, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ALONE
EH? HOW ABOUT LATER?
NO, WE'RE TALKING NOW
FINE, BUT I'M NOT MOVING. WHAT DO YOU WANT, BABE?
DID YOU ATTACK TERRY?

... WHO?
BLITZER, DUDE
Ooh, THAT'S BLITZER?! HAHA! I TOTALLY FORGOT!
WHEN?
WHEN? SO YOU DID?
WHAT'S IT MATTER?
AND WHAT ABOUT MARK'S HOUSE? THEY'RE SAYING YOU BROKE OUT HIS WINDOWS.
HE CAN'T PROVE THAT!
GABRIEL, HOW COULD YOU? I WANTED YOU TO SCREW WITH THEM, NOT ASSAULT THEM!
WHAT DO YOU CARE?
YOU'RE MAKING ME LOOK BAD! THEY THINK I TOLD YOU TO DO IT!
AND WHO CARES WHAT THEY THINK?
WELL YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T CARE WHAT I THINK! OR ABOUT MY REPUTATON!

WHERE'D ALL THIS COME FROM? OF COURSE I CARE ABOUT THAT CRAP!
I WANNA KNOW WHY YOU'RE *TALKING* TO THOSE CREEPS, ANYWAY!
I CAN TALK TO WHOEVER I WANT!
YOU *CAN'T* TALK TO *THOSE* FAGS!
...S THAT *MY PURSE?*
HUH?
MY PURSE! THE ONE NATALYA TOOK LAST WINTER!
UH, YEAH! I GOT IT BACK FROM HER FOR YOU!
GABE, WHY IS MY STUFF ALL OVER YOUR LOCKER?
I WAS CHECKING TO MAKE SURE IT WAS ALL THERE BEFORE I GAVE IT BACK TO YOU!
OH? AND *WHEN* DID YOU GET IT BACK?

THAT'S IT
GET THE HELL OUT OF MY LOCKER!
AHH!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, THAT I STOLE YOUR PURSE?!
AFTER I WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF GETTING IT BACK FOR YOU, YOU'D RATHER LISTEN TO THE DUDE WHO FRIED YOUR DOG?!
YOU NO GOOD SPOILED BITCH!
WE'RE THROUGH, GABRIEL!
DON'T YOU EVER COME NEAR ME AGAIN!
WAIT, WHAT?
DUDE, WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?
SHUT YOUR FUCKING MOUTH!

BREYKEN,
I BELIEVE I HAVE COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO YOUR FEARS
COULD WE DISCUSS THIS BRIEFLY?
I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR CLASS TAKEO, SO I CAN'T STOP BUT NO ONE'S AROUND, SO GO AHEAD, I GUESS.
IT APPEARS HYPER MODE CAN BE ALTERED IN A WAY THAT IT COULD BE COME SELF-ACTIVATED, AND WOULD NOT REQUIRE A PUPPETEER
WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT? I THOUGHT HYPER MODE JUST LETS THOSE SCIENTISTS CONTROL CIRCUITS?
IT HAS OTHER BENEFITS. WHILE ACTIVE, YOUR ABILITIES ARE ENHANCED YOUR ENERGY IS COMPLETELY REDIRECTED TO YOUR MUSCLES TO YOUR STRENGTH AND ELECTRICAL POWER
YOU'RE PUTTING ME TO SLEEP
BUT, MOST IMPORTANTLY, HYPER MODE TEMPORARILY DISABLES YOUR METAL WEAKNESS

I AM CURRENTLY IN A POSITION THAT GRANTS ME ACCESS TO YOUR MODE DRIVERS.
IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME, BUT I BELIEVE I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHANGE HYPER MODE IN A WAY THAT WOULD ALLOW YOU TO USE IT TO GAIN THE BENEFITS.
I CAN BARELY FOCUS ON WHAT YOU'RE SAYING RIGHT NOW
CAN WE TALK LATER?
YO BLITZER! WHO THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
HMM?!
I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM JESSIE! BUT YOU SAID SOMETHING TO HER AND NOW SHE DUMPED ME!
WAIT, WHAT'S MY FAULT? I DIDN'T SAY SHIT
STAY STILL, YOU WORM! YOU GOT AWAY LAST TIME, BUT WE'RE DOING THIS NOW!
I'LL TEAR OFF YOUR STUPID PIGTAILS AND FEED THEM TO YOU!

LOOK, I'M KINDA BUSY--
WHAT, BUSY TALKING TO YOURSELF LIKE A LUNATIC?!
AND HERE I THOUGHT THE REASON YOU HAD NO FRIENDS WAS 'CAUSE YOU'RE STUPID AND UGLY! WHO'D'VE GUESSED YOU'RE CRAZY TOO!
OH WAIT, YOU DO HAVE FRIENDS, DON'T YOU?
DON'T WORRY, I'LL PAY THOSE FAGGOTS A VISIT TOO, ONCE I'VE--
BAM!

BRRRNNNG!
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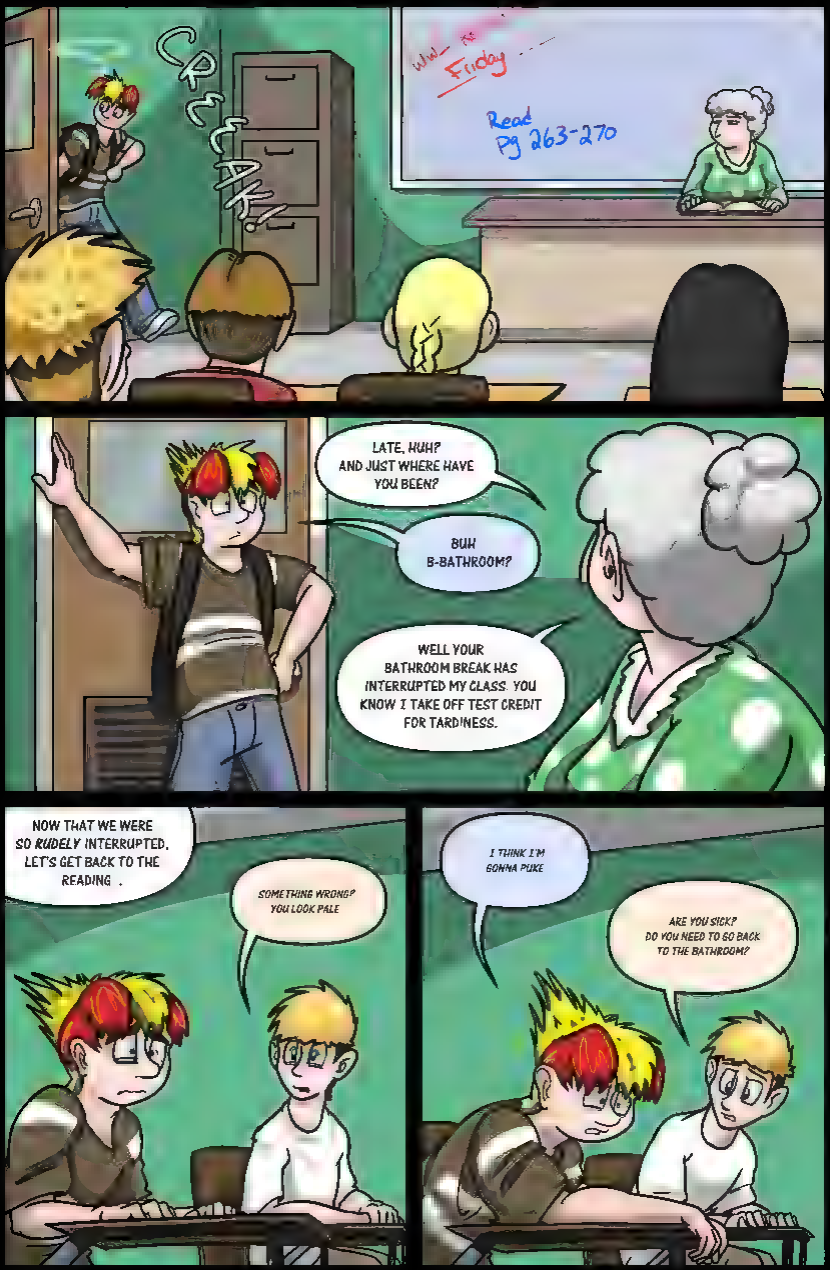
HYPER MODE WOULD BE-
LATER, TAKEO!


CREAK!
Read Pg 263-270
LATE, HUH? AND JUST WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
BUH B-BATHROOM?
WELL YOUR BATHROOM BREAK HAS INTERRUPTED MY CLASS. YOU KNOW I TAKE OFF TEST CREDIT FOR TARDINESS.
NOW THAT WE WERE SO RUDELY INTERRUPTED, LET'S GET BACK TO THE READING .
SOMETHING WRONG? YOU LOOK PALE
I THINK I'M GONNA PUKE
ARE YOU SICK? DO YOU NEED TO GO BACK TO THE BATHROOM?

HEY, THERE'S AN AMBULANCE PULLING UP OUTSIDE!
REALLY?
WHOA!
WHERE?
THERE'S A POLICE CAR, TOO!
WHAT HAPPENED?
ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH EXCITEMENT BACK TO YOUR SEATS.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN ?

..YOUR TEACHER REPORTED YOU WERE ABSENT RIGHT AROUND THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
N-NO.
ONE OF YOUR CLASSMATES, GABRIEL LARSON, WAS FOUND SEVERELY INJURED. HE'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS, AND THERE WAS SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE LOCKERS IN THE AREA AS WELL.
IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT COULD HELP US, NOW WOULD BE THE TIME TO TALK.
I WAS IN THE BATHROOM, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYONE HEADING THAT WAY, OR HEAR ANYTHING--
I DIDN'T DO IT. I WAS IN THE BATHROOM!
CALM DOWN. YOU'RE NOT IN TROUBLE. WE'RE JUST ASKING QUESTIONS
REALLY?

NOW DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HELP US?
NO, I... I WASN'T ON THAT SIDE OF THE BUILDING.
ALRIGHT, GET OUT OF HERE.
PRINCIPA
HE SEEMED PRETTY JUMPY. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
PRINCIPAL
LARSON WAS FOUND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING FROM HIS CLASS, AND HE WAS ALLEGEDLY IN-CLASS WITHIN A MINUTE THE INCIDENT APPARENTLY HAPPENED. DOESN'T FIT THE TIMEFRAME.
COME ON, WE'VE GOT MORE KIDS TO TALK TO.

AFTER SCHOOL.
YOU PUNCHED HIM FROM THE STAIRS TO THE LOCKERS?!
SHH! YOU WANT SOMEONE TO HEAR YOU?!
SO THEY DON'T KNOW IT WAS YOU?
I DON'T THINK SO
BUT WON'T GABE TELL THEM YOU DID IT?
I DON'T THINK HE'S WOKEN UP YET
JESUS CHRIST, TERRY! FIRST THE DOG, AND NOW GABE?
LOOK, I'LL BE HONEST, GABE DESERVED IT BUT YOU NEED TO GET YOUR POWERS UNDER CONTROL!
I CAN CONTROL THEM JUST FINE!
LOOK, THE PROBLEM IS YOU GET NERVOUS TOO EASILY
YOU SAID YOU CAN'T USE YOUR POWERS WHEN YOU TOUCH SOMETHING METALLIC, RIGHT?
YEAH
HERE. WEAR THIS. JUST DON'T LOSE IT, OKAY?

HELL NO, I DON'T WANT TO BE VULNERABLE!
I CAN'T HAVE MY GUARD DOWN NOW THAT HAZARD KNOWS WHAT I AM!
YOU'D RATHER KEEP MURMUR DOGS AND HURTING PEOPLE?
THAT'S A WEAK CHAIN ANYWAY IF YOU'RE REALLY IN TROUBLE, YOU CAN SNAP IT OFF
MARK'S GOT A POINT YOU'RE WAY TOO JUMPY TO BE WALKING AROUND WITHOUT SOMETHING TO KEEP YOUR POWERS IN CHECK.
YOU TOLD US BEFORE YOU WANTED TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE WELL, NORMAL PEOPLE DON'T BLAST DOGS AND SEND QUARTERBACKS TWICE THEIR SIZE FLYING INTO LOCKERS
I KNOW ALL THAT I M TRYING TO FAKE IT
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT I'LL GIVE THIS A SHOT THANKS GUYS
YOU BLIND? YOU WALKED RIGHT PAST MY CAR.
I'M THINK I M GONNA WALK HOME
SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA?
I'LL BE FINE SEE YA TOMORROW

BREYKEN, I MUST ASK.
YOU HAVE CONFIDED YOUR SECRET OF YOUR ABILITIES TO YOUR FRIENDS, BUT YOU HAVE NOT TOLD THEM THAT I ACCOMPANY YOU.
THEY WANT TO HELP YOU, BUT YOU REFUSE TO LET THEM IN ON OUR DISCUSSIONS, AND VICE VERSA.
I DON'T NEED THEM TO THINK I'M CRAZY, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY'LL ASSUME IF I TELL THEM I HEAR VOICES.
THEY MAY ALREADY BE OF THAT MINDSET
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR OPINION
NOTED.
TO GO BACK TO OUR DISCUSSION EARLIER, I STILL NEED YOUR PERMISSION TO ALTER HYPER MODE
I CANNOT ACCESS THE CODE WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION. YOUR MIND BLOCKS ME OFF FROM SELECT AREAS UNLESS YOU ALLOW ME.
JESUS, YOU'RE BORING.
UH YEAH, WHATEVER GO AHEAD.
THANK YOU. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THIS WITHIN A FEW DAYS
I STILL RECOMMEND YOU WEAR THAT NECKLACE, HOWEVER. IT SEEMS TO BE A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR CURRENT SITUATION.
SO YOU CAN JUST CHANGE HOW MY POWERS WORK?
NO. MODES REQUIRE DRIVERS IN ORDER TO BE OPERATED, WHEREAS YOUR OTHER POWERS DO NOT
WHAT I AM ABLE TO CHANGE WITH MODES IS VERY LIMITED

A NEGATIVE SIDE-EFFECT OF THESE CHANGES IS THAT YOUR PASSIVE RECOVERY MODE WILL BE DISABLED WHILE YOU HAVE HYPER MODE ACTIVE.
PASSIVE RECOVERY IS THAT CRAP THAT MAKES MY HAIR GROW BACK, RIGHT?
CORRECT.
FUCK, THAT SOUNDS OKAY. CAN YOU TURN THAT OFF?
I CAN. BUT I WILL NOT.
WHY NOT?
WE WOULD DIE.
MOST OF YOUR ABILITIES ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SYNTHETIC BLOOD THAT HAS REPLACED YOUR BIOLOGICAL BLOOD. HOWEVER, THIS SOLUTION IS HIGHLY TOXIC.
YOU WOULD DIE WITHIN THE HOUR IF YOUR PASSIVE RECOVERY MODE WAS DISABLED.
OH...
THIS DOES MEAN THAT ONCE I MAKE THESE CHANGES TO HYPER MODE, YOU STILL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE IT VERY OFTEN.
BUT IT WOULD BE A GOOD BACKUP PLAN. DO I STILL HAVE YOUR PERMISSION MAKE THESE CHANGES?
YEAH, I GUESS.
THANK YOU. IT SHOULD BE DONE BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

NOW CAN WE TALK ABOUT GABE?
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
WHAT SHOULD I DO? HE'S GONNA TELL THE COPS ONCE HE WAKES UP.
HIS TESTIMONY MAY NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH.
YOU CAN EASILY CAST DOUBT ON HIS STORY, AS A BOY OF YOUR SIZE COULD NOT THROW SOMEONE INTO LOCKERS AS YOU DID.
NO. BUT IT'S ALL MY FAULT ANYWAY.
I'VE JUST BEEN REALLY LUCKY THAT ONLY NAT AND MARK KNOW ABOUT ME SO FAR.
BUT I HAVE TO STOP SCREWING UP. I CAN'T KEEP GETTING LUCKY.
THAT IS WHAT THESE NEW PRECAUTIONS ARE FOR.
DO NOT FORGET HE THREATENED YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. I DO NOT SEE A PROBLEM WITH DEFENDING YOURSELF.
YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOU CAN NOW. YOU HAVE A NECKLACE TO WEAR. I WILL MAKE CHANGES TO HYPER MODE TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE IF YOU FEEL STRESSED.
IS THAT NOT SATISFACTORY?

TAKEO, SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK...
YOU WERE TALKING EARLIER ABOUT THOSE SCIENTISTS TRYING TO "MERGE" US. BUT I DON'T GET WHAT YOU MEANT.
YOU SAID WE'RE NOT MERGED, RIGHT? YOU SEEM TO BE IN MY HEAD, SO WHAT'S MERGED?
TO KEEP IT IN TERMS YOU CAN UNDERSTAND, I WOULD ESSENTIALLY TAKE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR MIND AND INHERIT YOUR BODY AS MY OWN.
...WHAT?
I WOULD HAVE PRIMARY CONTROL OVER YOUR ACTIONS.
SO I'D JUST WATCH AS YOU CONTROLLED MY BODY?!
FOREVER?!
YOU WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO WATCH.
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?!
WOULD I BE DEAD?!
I AM NOT CONFIDENT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND IF I EXPLAINED IT. BUT YOU ARE JUMPING TO ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS.
YOU'RE DODGING THE QUESTION!
I AM NOT THE ONE YOU SHOULD BE ANGRY WITH, BREYKEN.
I CHOSE NOT TO MERGE WITH YOU AS INTENDED. MY ACTIONS LEFT YOU AS THE PRIMARY OWNER.

UH... IS THAT DUDE TALKING TO HIMSELF?
OH, THAT'S THE WEIRD KID I TOLD YOU ABOUT.
SHH, NOT SO LOUD! HE MIGHT HEAR YOU.
I'M ON THE PHONE, YOU NOSY PRICKS!
JUDGEMENTAL FUCKERS--
MY CHOICE TO NOT MERGE WITH YOU ENABLED US TO ESCAPE THE LAB TOGETHER.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTENTIONS OF DR. BREYKEN'S SCIENTISTS DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT MY OWN.
OKAY, BUT WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS?
WHY DID YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE LAB?
... TAKEO?
END